

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/778,015	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mark Blouin	2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 7/7/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 8-13.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|--|

Detailed Action

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-5 and 8-11 (renumbered as 1-11) are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This application is for a lens drive device.

- **Claim 1** specifies a lens drive device, which requires:

“...first and second boards respectively provided on both sides of said objective lens such that said objective lens is located between said first and second boards in the first axial direction, wherein said drive coils are arranged on both-said first and second boards, respectively, ... to form said internal connection and wherein said lens holder includes fixing arms which connect said plurality of wire-form elastic members and said connection wire to said lens holder, and an end of each of said plurality of wire-form elastic members is buried within each of said fixing arms.”

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 1, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

- **Claim 3** specifies a lens drive device, which requires:

“...wherein said drive coils are arranged on said first and second boards respectively, and a connection wire that is integrally molded while being contained in said lens holder ties-extends between said drive coils positioned on both sides of said objective lens in the first axial direction that connects the second ends of said drive coils to form said internal connection.”

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 3, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

- **Claim 5** specifies a lens drive device, which requires:

“...wherein a plurality of drive coils having a first end for connection to a drive source and a second end for an internal connection are arranged on first and second boards respectively, and a connection wire that ties-extends between said drive coils positioned

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on both sides of said objective lens in the first axial direction and connects the second end of the drive coils to form said internal connection on said lens holder is integrally molded while being contained in said lens holder. ”

These features, in combination with the other features of Claim 5, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

4. The closest prior art is Yoshifumi (EP 516 390) but does not show **first and second boards respectively provided on both sides of said objective lens such that said objective lens is located between said first and second boards in the first axial direction, wherein said drive coils are arranged on both-said first and second boards, respectively,... to form said internal connection and wherein said lens holder includes fixing arms which connect said plurality of wire-form elastic members and said connection wire to said lens holder, and an end of each of said plurality of wire-form elastic members is buried within each of said fixing arms.**

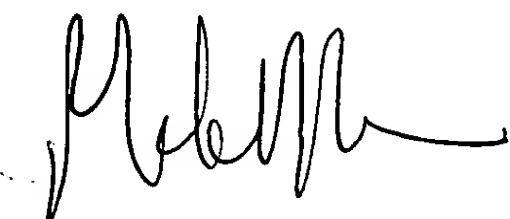
Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Blouin whose telephone number is 571-272-7583. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:00 to 3:30 pm.

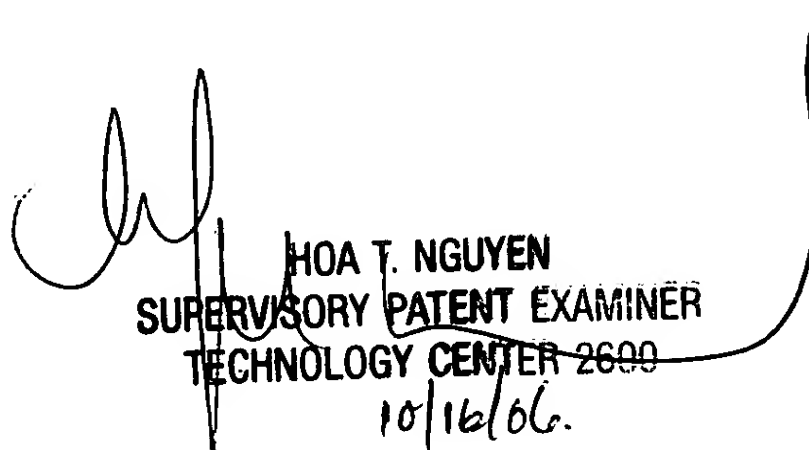
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ms. Hoa Nguyen, can be reached on 571-272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark Blouin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2627
September 22, 2006



HOA T. NGUYEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600
10/16/06.